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### PENCE SPEAKS ON CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

**Washington, Jun 2, 2004** - The following is Congressman Mike Pence's floor statement from this afternoon on H.J. Res. 83:

"Mr. Speaker, before us today is a piece of legislation that has stirred a clear debate between those of us who wish to preserve 'The People's House,' and those who wish to take away the American right to elected representation during the most crucial moments of our nation's history.

"Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 83 is bad policy. When terrorists attacked America on September 11, 2001, it was an elected Congress that acted in its wake.

"Had the 107th been comprised of appointed officials, the legislation we passed would not have carried the same validity. All of Congress' powers under Article I of the Constitution are only legitimately exercised by an elected House of Representatives.

"It would hardly be reassuring to the public to see, immediately following a terrorist attack, the faces of hundreds of strangers running their government. Whatever the controversy surrounding legislation passed in the wake of September 11, just imagine the uproar that would surround future legislation enacted under strained circumstances by a Congress composed entirely of unelected officials.

"Mr. Speaker, James Madison clearly wrote in the Federalist Papers, 'As it is essential to liberty that the government in general should have a common interest with the people, so it is particularly essential that the [House] should have an immediate dependence on, and an intimate sympathy with, the people. Frequent elections are unquestionably the only policy by which [a] dependence and sympathy [for the people] can be effectually secured.'

"Madison was clear on this point, Mr. Speaker, that the Founders established the House of Representatives to be the body closest to the people. This resolution undermines that intent. I oppose this resolution and encourage my colleagues to do the same."